

**To:** EOC Public Information[EOC\_Public\_Information@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Carey, Curtis[Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]  
**From:** Durant, Jennah  
**Sent:** Sun 8/30/2015 10:25:35 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Revisions to website

Revisions to the website (<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/roles-epa-and-other-responders-after-2015-gold-king-mine-release>) are below. Chris Ruhl has OKed. Please note he clarified that the pH of treated water discharged to Cement Creek has varied from 5.0 to 5.5, with 5.5 being the goal.

Jennah  
214 676-0655

# Roles of EPA and Other Responders After the 2015 Gold King Mine Release

## On this page:

- [How EPA Is Responding](#)
- [Other Organizations Involved in the Response](#)

---

## How EPA Is Responding

EPA is committed to working closely with response agencies and state and local officials to ensure the safety of citizens, respond to concerns and to evaluate impact to water contaminated by the spill.

### Response Resources

- **EPA personnel from across the country, in coordination with supporting federal, tribal, state, and local agencies, continue response and recovery work throughout the watershed from Colorado to Lake Powell, Utah.**

- EPA's toll-free call center (844-607-7600) continues to respond to community questions related to the spill.
- EPA is releasing data, information and documents to the public as quickly as they become available.

## **Water Monitoring, Sampling and Data Collection**

EPA teams have been deployed throughout the Animas and San Juan Rivers corridor continue collecting data. Teams sampled surface water in the Animas River as well as groundwater in private wells in Colorado and New Mexico.

The majority of samples indicate water quality is trending to pre-event conditions, allowing drinking water intakes to reopen and recreational and agricultural use of the Animas River to resume. EPA collected sediment samples along several points of the river.

The Navajo Nation has reopened the San Juan River for irrigation. EPA continues to share sampling results as soon as they become available, with data and customizable maps posted to the Gold King Mine Response website.

## **Mine Discharge Treatment**

Mine water is being treated in a series of settling ponds constructed near the portal. The treatment appears to be effective. We are decreasing the acidity of the water (raising the pH level) with the addition of lime and sodium hydroxide solution to facilitate sedimentation of the metals in the ponds. The treated water that is being discharged to Cement Creek has a pH of about 5.0 to 5.5.

## **Coordination among EPA Offices and with State, Local and Tribal Governments**

EPA's Region 8 office in Denver, which is responsible for the implementation of our programs within Colorado, Utah and Southern Ute Tribe, is working in close coordination with:

- EPA's Region 6 office in Dallas, which implements our programs in New Mexico
- EPA's Region 9 office in San Francisco, which implements our programs in the Navajo Nation, Arizona
- the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah
- the Southern Ute Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute and the Navajo Nation
- County and city governments throughout the watershed.

## **Outreach and Communication**

Sampling data from the past several weeks has consistently shown environmental conditions are trending to pre-event conditions. EPA continues sharing as quickly as possible with the public any updated information on response activities, results, impacts to public health, and other related information.

- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USCG)**
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS)**
- **U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)**
- **The Navajo Nation**
- **Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT)**
- **Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM)**
- **La Plata County, CO**
- **San Juan County, CO**
- **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)**
- **State of Colorado Southwest Incident Management Team**
- **State of Colorado Northwest Incident Management Team**
- **State of Colorado Bolder Incident Management Team**
- **State of Colorado Jefferson County Incident Management Team**
- **City of Durango, CO**
- **New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)**
- **New Mexico Department of Health**
- **New Mexico Office of the State Engineer**
- **New Mexico Department of Game and Fish**
- **County of San Juan, NM**
- **City of Farmington, NM**
- **City of Aztec, NM**
- **New Mexico Department of Agriculture—NMSU**